

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 322-5387



June 11, 1980

ALL-COUNTY LETTER NO. 80-35

• TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: REDWOOD EMPLOYEE PROTECTION PROGRAM (REPP) BENEFITS

REFERENCE: AFDC - 44-101.3 and .532 and 44-111.437
FOOD STAMPS - 63-501.1 and 63-502.1
MEDI-CAL - TITLE 22, CALIFORNIA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE
SECTION 50607 and 50483

This is to bring to your attention the fact that some persons formerly employed in the Redwood Industry may be eligible for Redwood Employee Protection Program (REPP) benefits.

Effective with the expansion of the Redwoods National Park in Humboldt and Del Norte counties, a number of adversely affected employees in the Redwood Lumber Industry began qualifying for benefits under the federally funded Redwood Employee Protection Program (REPP).

Under REPP, eligible workers can qualify for a variety of benefits including weekly layoff benefits, vacation replacement benefits and severance payments.

Weekly layoff benefits are calculated to replace the individual's average weekly wage in affected employment prior to expansion of the park and can range from \$104 weekly to as much as \$1,300 or more per week depending on previous earnings. Weekly layoff benefits may be paid for periods up to approximately six years (for certain senior employees, eligibility may last up to eleven years).

Vacation replacement benefits are normally payable to seasonal employees immediately following the end of their season. The amount payable will be the equivalent to the weekly layoff benefit for each week of vacation credit accrued with the affected employer.

Severance payments will in some instances be paid in lieu of weekly layoff benefits. The amount of severance pay payable is computed at the rate of one week's weekly layoff benefit for each month of creditable service up to a maximum of seventy-two weeks. Severance payments are required to be repaid in full if the employee returns to work in the industry prior to September 30, 1984.

GEN 654 (7/78)

For purposes of the AFDC Program, these benefits are net nonexempt income in the month received and property in subsequent months except in those instances where severance payments meet the conditions of EAS 44-111.437 and are considered an exempt loan. However, severance benefits are not considered unconditionally available income as defined in EAS 44-103.22. For purposes of the Medi-Cal Program, these benefits are gross unearned income in the month of receipt and property thereafter; except that if such benefits require repayment, they are exempt as income but considered property in the month of receipt per CAC, Title 22, Section 50483. For purposes of the Food Stamp Program, these benefits are unearned income in the month received.

These REPP benefits are not currently shown on the Employment Development Department's Benefit History File. Therefore, no automated procedure exists which would reflect these payments. However, inquiries regarding an applicant's or recipient's eligibility status can be directed to the Sacramento Training and Payment Unit #850, 7001 E Parkway, Sacramento, CA 95828. Each request should identify the applicant or recipient by name and Social Security number and specify dates for which payment information is needed.

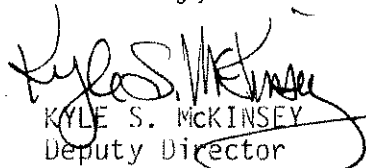
If you have any questions, please contact your Program Management Consultant

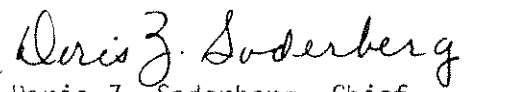
AFDC- (916) 445-4453

Food Stamps - (916) 322-5475

or your Medi-Cal Field Representative (916) 445-1797 or 445-1912.

Sincerely,


KYLE S. MCKINSEY
Deputy Director


Doris Z. Soderberg, Chief
Eligibility Branch
Medi-Cal Care Standards Division
Department of Health Services

cc: CWDA